ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

North River Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Jasper Baptist Church, Walker Co., Ala.,

Saturday, September 21, 1889.

OFFICERS-

J. W. D[illegible], ... MODERATOR.
J. S. WATT[illegible], ... CLERK.
" ..... TREASURER.

Montgomery, Ala.
[illegible] of The Baptist Printing Co
1889.

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MINUTES.

The fifty-fifth annual session of the North River Baptist Association convened with the Jasper church, Walker county, Ala., on Saturday, September 21st, A. D. 1889.

At 11 o'clock A. M. the introductory sermon was preached by Rev. Wm Patton, followed by Rev. L. B. Harbin. Text: "And as ye go, preach, saying, The Kingdom of God is at hand."—Matthew 10:7.

After preaching a recess was given until 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2 o'clock P. M. the Association reassembled, and, after devotional services, was called to order by the former Moderator, Rev. L. B. Harbin. The Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum were read by S. Lacy.

The roll of the churches was then called and letters from the various churches were presented. Brethren J. W. Rogers and Jno. H. Pool were appointed to read the letters.

LIST OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES.

Absentees marked thus *

Pleasant Grove, W. C.—W. T. Rutledge, *James Rutledge, D. P. Kilgore, *J. W. Anderson, W. H. McLane, B F. Thomas, J. E. Grace.

Providence—J. R. Sartain, J. S. Watts, *J. W. Phifer, *B. F. Clements, *R. Covington, J. A. Sumner.

Pleasant Field—J. L. Leonard, *Jacob Smith, *Jas. T. Grace.

Mt. Zion—Wm. Patton, *N. Thacker, James Patton, A. Patton.

Bethabara—N. H. Harbin, *J. D. Pittman, C. O. Pittman, J. W. Rogers.

Bethlehem—*D. A. Kemp, *W. M. McDuff, J. F. McDuff, L. B. Harbin, *C. R. McCord.

New River—J. I. McCollum, J. E. Barnard, W. J. Killingsworth.

Mt. Joy—H. G. Amerson, J. C. Kimbrell, *W. B. Earnest, J. W. Kimbrell, Z. J. Amerson.

New Hope—W. A. Hegler, J. H. Freeman, *E. H. Bagwell.

Union—*R. Colburn, *Jas. A. Colburn, *J. Z. Colburn, T. C. Omery.

Day's Gap—*Jas. H. Pool, jr., *S. Barentine, *T. J. Creel, Jno. H. Pool, *L. P. Craig.

Jasper—Wm. Randolph, W. B. Appling, W. G. Davis, S. Lacy.

Samaria—J. C. Daniel, D. H. Clifton, *Wm. T. Sherer, J. W. Garner.

New Prospect—L. P. Kiker, *Joshua Atkins, *M. M. Sherer, J. P. Mooney, *S. G. Cooner.

Liberty Grove—C. M. D. Wilson, *John Keeton, A. A. Sides, *W. V. Keeton.

Hepsibah—W. P. Smith, *J. W. Key, *J. H. Smith.

Mt. Carmel—Joseph Nations, *J. N. Roberts.

Union Grove—J. M. Thacker, G. W. Baker, J. W. Wallis.

Salem—*H. C. Crump, *W. M. Jackson, J. B. Randolph.

Zion—L. C. Barentine, W. S. Chappell, *Jno. Sanford.

Berry Station—*B. F. Freeman, *L. F. Gammon, A. J. Hocutt.

Lebanon—R. M. Earnest, Wm. P. Earnest, *W. R. Thacker, *A. Kilgore, *J. T. Jones.

Pleasant Grove, F. C.—W. C. C. Brown, *Jno. F. Wyres, G. W. McGowens.

The Association was permanently organized by the election of J. W. Rogers, Moderator; J. S. Watts, Clerk, and S. Lacy, Corresponding Secretary. Then called for petitionary letters from newly constituted or dismissed churches, and brethren N. Highsow, Jas. Gilbert and F. M. Reid came forward, bearing a letter from Union Grove No. 2, which was received.

Invited visiting ministers that were not delegates to seats.

Received correspondence, to-wit:

From New River Association—G. W. Gravlee.
Clear Creek—Jas. Hilton.

Returned correspondence, to-wit:

New River Association—W. J. Killingsworth, Jno. H. Pool, N. H. Harbin, W. B. Appling, Wm. Randolph
Tuscaloosa—J. F. McDuff, J. F. Appling, Z. J. Amerson.
Mud Creek—L. B. Harbin, W. S. Chappell, L. C. Barentine.
Clear Creek—W. P. Smith, Jno. H. Pool, L. P. Kiker, J. P. Mooney.

REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Devotional Exercises.
2. Read Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.
3. Presentation of Letters from the Churches.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Called for Petitionary Letters.
6. Invite visiting members to seats.
7. Receive Correspondence.
8. Return Correspondence.
9. Appointment of Special Committees: (1) On religious exercises (2) on documents, (3) on nominations, (4) on finance, (5) on prayer and prayer meetings.
10. Call for Report of District Meetings.
11. Call for Report of Standing Committees: (1) On Sunday-schools, (2) on temperance, (3) on State missions, (4) on home missions, (5) on foreign missions, (6) on education, (7) on aged and infirm ministers.
12. Report of Treasurer.
13. Appointment of Treasurer.
14. Call for Report of Special Committees: (1) On documents, (2) on nominations, (3) on finance, (4) on prayer and prayer meetings.
15. Call for Report of Executive Committee.
16. Appointment of Standing Committees.
17. Miscellaneous business.
18. Read minutes, call roll and adjourn.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

On Religious Exercises—J. F. McDuff, N. H. Harbin, J. P. Mooney, and the deacons of Jasper church.
On Documents—W. B. Appling, L. B Harbin, Jno. H. Pool.
On Finance—Z. J. Amerson, J. W. Wallis, S. Lacy.
On Nominations—W. J. Killingsworth, J. M. Kimbrell, D. H. Clifton.
On Prayer and Prayer Meetings—W. P. Smith, Wm. Randolph, W. T. Rutledge.

On motion, Bro. J. G. Harris was received as a representative of the Board of Ministerial Education and Rev. W. B. Crumpton as Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board.

At the request of W. P. Smith, Rev. W. B. Crumpton was appointed to preach at 11 o'clock on Sunday instead of W. P. Smith.

Report of Committee on Religious Exercises—W. B. Crumpton to preach at the church to-night and J. G. Harris to lecture on Sunday-schools at 9:30 o'clock Sunday morning.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8 o'clock.

SUNDAY.

At 10 o'clock A. M. Brethren J. G. Harris and Rev. D. I. Purser delivered interesting lectures on Sunday-schools.

At 11 o'clock A. M. Rev. W. B. Crumpton preached to a large and attentive audience (John 15:16), after which a public collection was taken for missions.

LIST OF PERSONS CONTRIBUTING.

W. B. Appling	paid	$ 5 00	W. G. Davis	paid	$ 5 00
J. B. Hughs	"	5 00	Wm. Randolph	"	5 00
S. Lacy	"	5 00	G. D. Orear	"	5 00
E. Orear	"	5 00	T. P. Lamkin	"	5 00
E. H. Foster	"	5 00	J. L. Gilder	"	5 00
J. L. Leonard	"	5 00	J. F. Appling	"	5 00
Ira Robins	not paid.	2 00	J. F. McDuff	"	1 00
Sam Snoddy	"	1 00	A. L. Files	"	1 00
A. Friend	"	1 00	L. B. Harbin	"	1 00
J. S. Watts	"	1 00	David Files	"	1 00
W. J. Killingsworth	"	1 00	H. O. Babb	"	1 00
Mrs. Mary Kitchens	"	1 00	J. W. Rogers	"	1 00
J. D. Stephens	not paid.	1 00	W. C. Roseman	not paid.	25
Mrs. Mildred Hays	"	1 00	Miss Fannie Lollar	"	25
Mrs. Lollar	"	25	Mrs. James Richardson	"	1 00
Mrs. C. E. Shields	"	50			
Amount collected					$72 50
A hat collection was also taken amounting to					15 73
Total amount collected for missions on Sunday					$88 23

At 3:30 o'clock P. M. a children's service was held, conducted by W. B. Crumpton, and Brethren D. I. Purser and J. G. Harris made short but interesting speeches.

Preaching Sunday night by Rev. D. I. Purser.

MONDAY.

MORNING SESSION.

At 8 o'clock A. M. the Association reassembled, and after devotional services was called to order for the transaction of business.

Called for churches not represented on Saturday, and delegates from the following named churches came forward bearing letters:

Bethel—James Willcut.

Macedonia—J. L. Gilder and A. W. Cunningham.

Called for report of district meetings.

FIRST DISTRICT.

The next meeting of the First District will be held with Pleasant Field Church on Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1890. Rev. J. W. Rogers to preach the Introductory Sermon; Rev. Wm. Patton, alternate; Rev. A. Kilgore to preach at 11 o'clock on Sunday; Rev. J. R. Sartain, alternate.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION.

1. What is the duty of the ministry to the church and the duty of the church to the ministry? Opened by Rev. Wm. Patton.
2. Is the Church of Christ responsible for the spread of the Gospel? Opened by L. H. Baker.
3. What is the most successful plan to educate our people to the importance and necessity of the mission work? Opened by J. W. Rodgers.

Appointed Day's Gap the place for holding the next session of the North River Association.

L. B. HARBIN, MODERATOR.

W. P. AMERSON, Clerk.

SECOND DISTRICT.

The Second District meeting will convene with Liberty Grove Church, eleven miles northwest of Jasper, commencing on Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1890. Rev. E. L. Brown to preach the Introductory Sermon; Rev. M. D. L. Sanders, alternate; Rev. H. A. Key to preach on Sunday at 11 o'clock a. m ; Rev. W. P. Smith, alternate.

WM. RANDOLPH, MODERATOR.

J. M. SIDES, Clerk.

Called for report on Sabbath schools, and after discussion by J. G. Harris and others was adopted.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee on Sabbath schools, would report that we believe the Sunday school work to be retrograding. We are led to this conclusion from the following facts. 1. The Sunday School Convention in the bounds of this Association was not so well attended this year as formerly, there being but six schools represented: 2. Out of the twenty-six churches represented at this session of the Association, only thirteen have Sunday schools. And quite a number of these churches thought the Sunday school to be of so little importance that they were not mentioned in their letters. Thirteen churches are opposed to Sunday schools,or otherwise have no Sunday school workers sufficiently interested to put forth an effort to organize a Sabbath school, hence they have none. Where does the fault rest, and who is to blame for this state of things? Are not our preachers the leaders, and should they not be the organizers of our churches and people? We, your committee, are persuaded that in a great measure the pastors of churches are to blame for this inactivity upon the part of churches in the Sunday school work. Therefore, if we desire to bring about a change for the better, we must enthuse our preachers and pastors with this work, and then, and not until then, will our churches become enthused with the Sunday school work.

J. W. ROGERS, Ch'n.

On motion, Rev. C. W. Hare was received as a representative of the ALABAMA BAPTIST.

On motion, the regular order of business was suspended for the purpose of hearing the report on Education. There being no report prepared, the report on Education of last session was read and adopted.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Recognizing Education as one of the greatest agencies that Christianity developes and uses for the elevation and improvement of our race, we deem it our duty to record our endorsement of every proper means to advance the cause of general education in our state. The future of Alabama absolutely demands an onward movement in this direction. By raising the standard of education in our State and making it of increased interest to the people of the State, we place it in the power of every citizen to acquire a fair English course, at least to aid his children in securing an education.

But it is education as fostered by our own denomination that appeals directly to us. Our own Howard College, now located at East Lake, deserves and ought to receive the hearty sympathy and co-operation of all our brethren. We must erect buildings and endow them so that they can present equal advantages with our State institutions. And as the great motive power that has made the Howard College what it is to-day, is the education of young men preparing for the ministry, let us say that the foundation of this proposition is laid in our Academic and College halls Educate your sons and let God call whom he will. And by all means send those young men to school whom God has called, to equip them for their life work. We therefore recommend the Howard College to the patronage of the denomination and the public generally, and that we aid the Board of Ministerial Education, located in Montgomery, in supplying means to further this cause. The following resolution was also adopted:

Resolved, That we also recommend the Judson Female Institute to the sympathy and support of our people.

A subscription was taken for the benefit of Howard College. List of persons subscribing.

S. Lacey	$ 50 00	J. I. McCollom	$ 25 00
W. B. Appling	50 00	W. P. Earnest	10 00
T. P. Lamkin	50 00	E. O'Rear	10 00
G. D. O'Rear	50 00	Wm. Randolph	10 00
G. W. Davis	50 00	J. P. Mooney	10 00
J. F. Appling	50 00	B. F. Thomas	10 00
John H. Pool	50 00	J. M. Kitcheus	10 00
J. E. Barnard	50 00	Mrs. Hayes	25 00
J. L. Gilder	25 00	Mrs. Pittman	25 00
Total amount			$560 00

A list of churches contributing for Ministerial Education:

Pleasant Grove, W. C.	$ 5 00
Providence—Will present to church	—
Pleasant Field—Will not pay anything	—
Pleasant Grove, F. C.—Will present to church	—
Mt. Zion—Will present to church	—
Bethabara—Will present to church	—
Bethlehem—Will present to church	—
Bethel—Will present to church	—
New River	5 00
Macedonia	5 00
Mt. Joy—Will present to church	—
Lebanon—Will present to church	—
Union—Will present to church	—
Day's Gap	5 00
Jasper	10 00
Samaria—Will present to church	—
New Prospect	5 00
Hepsibah—Will present to church	—
Mt. Carmel—Will present to church	—
Union Grove—Will present to church	—
Zion—Will present to church	—
Union Grove, No. 2—Will present to church	—
Berry—We are building house. A. J. Hocutt, Berry Station P. O. Ala	—

After discussion by J. G. Harris and others, the above report was adopted.

On motion, adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2 o'clock p. m. met pursuant to adjournment, and after singing and prayer, was called to order.

Called for the following reports:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report that we recognize the fact that there are many practices indulged in to-day which are prohibited in the word of God; but we propose to address ourselves to the great-

est of evils, the use of ardent spirits as a beverage. Total abstinence from the use of alcoholic stimulants most certainly secures and insures domestic tranquility and promotes the general welfare of individuals, neighborhoods and governments. Whatever promotes the welfare of individuals, will promote the welfare of States and Nations, for Nations are made up of States, and States of individuals. Total abstinence transforms the miserable and dark hovel into a bright and happy home, banishes from the minds of mothers and wives gloom and despair, and brings instead the hope of peace and prosperity. Instead of the painful watchings, the joyous anticipation of a happy return at evening; instead of the inexpressible sadness which fills the mother's heart and mind as she sees her boy leave the home of his childhood to go out and battle with the sterner realities of life, will be the buoyant hope that he will play well the role of a man, sober, tried and true.

Can we give a remedy by which such great results can be secured? We answer: By constitutional prohibition of the manufacture, importation and sale of ardent spirits. Law, under the Constitution, is to protect the individual in life, prosperity and in the pursuit of happiness The whiskey man boasts that his business is honorable because it is lawful. We claim that every privilege granted to him by the law of which he boasts, clearly and unmistakably defeats that protection of life, property and happiness which the Constitution promises its subjects. Nothing short of the withdrawal of these privileges from the wine vendor will meet the desires which rest in the minds of the Christian people of the nineteenth century.

Respectfully submitted,

J. S. Watts, Ch'n.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on State Missions, respectfully report: We feel thankful to God that we have been so wonderfully blessed the past year. But the demands for Mission work is greater than ever before. The construction of new railroads cause new towns to spring up and a great increase in population, therefore the demand for more help from the churches is greatly needed. Our Association has been called upon to raise $150 for the aid and support of the State Mission work in Alabama. This amount is very small for this Association, having a membership of 1,394, being 10¾ cents each, and we think that amount can be easily raised if the pastors of the several churches will but encourage their churches to aid in the great work.

Let us pray God for a spirit that will prompt us to action, and that we may be instruments in his hand for the spread of the Gospel in every destitute vicinity in the State of Alabama. For full statistics see report of Secretary of State Mission Board. We heartily recommend the co-operation by the churches of all the different institutions fostered by the State Mission Board.

G. D. O'Rear, Ch'n.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Home Missions report as follows: It is with profound thanksgiving to Almighty God that we can report a handsome increase in our receipts, according to the report of the Treasurer of the Home Mission Board. And yet we are deeply impressed with the fact that we are doing little to bring our people to the Lord. The native white people of our own land should have the first place in our affections and interest. To their evangelization should be directed the earnest effort of every lover of our country, while our prayers should go out in sincere desire for the salvation of the millions of heathen who know not God; and while we labor to bring to the light and truth the people of Cuba and Mexico and other papal fields, we must not lose sight of our own fields. Here we are face to face with thousands of our own native people who know not God, and thousands of foreigners from other nations who must be evangelized by us as Christian people, or remain in sin and wickedness. And more than this, if we fail to control, with a Christian influence, the foreign population will step in with doctrines subversive to our Christian religion. We must so bring them under the power of the Gospel that their coming to our country will prove a blessing. It is estimated that we have in our home field four hundred and

fifty thousand people destitute of Gospel privileges. What do Missionary Baptists think of this? Are we wide awake to the great importance of contributing to this high and noble cause? A great and glorious work has been done, and is being done, and we are still able to do even greater things if we will The Home Board is being felt for good among us. And with what we have seen from our past efforts and our present opportunity, and the great and important work that lies out before us, let us all be prompted to more earnest action and rally to the call made by our Mission Board, and glorify God in obeying the commission to preach the Gospel to every creature.

John H. Pool, Ch'n.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Of all the benevolent enterprises that now engages the activity of the Christian world, foreign missions deserves a large place in our prayers and beneficence. Home missions, education, the temperance cause and the like, are for ourselves, our country and therefore appeal more or less to the selfish principle in our hearts; but foreign missions lifts us above all selfish considerations, and thus allies us more closely to the spirit of him who came to "seek and to save them that are lost." Christ is the embodiment of disinterested benevolence, and as we catch that spirit and reprodnce it in our deportment, we reproduce "the mind that was in Christ Jesus." This must ever give to the foreign mission cause the foreground in all our religions enterprises. The doors of all the nations of the earth are open to the gospel. This has never been the case before since the days of Christ. For nearly a hundred years Christians have been praying for God to remove all barriers that abstructed the progress of the gospel; and lately, by a simultaneous co-operation of many influences throughout the world, God has answered this prayer. These barriers are removed, and the world is open to us. Another fact is, that in answer to our prayers for laborers in the great harvest, God is raising up more men and women for this work than we have ever known before. A hundred men in the United States now stand ready to enter this field at once, besides many godly women. Thus our prayers have been answered both in regard to the removal of obstructions and in the laborers to occupy the field, at least to a large extent. Now, the great need of the hour is, the means to send these 'godly men and women to, and sustain them in, this vast field. Would it not be well for all Christians, now, to direct their prayers to God—that God of whom it is said "the gold and the silver are mine"—that he would open the purse strings of our people to supply, in adequate measure, the material aid to carry on this work? God uses men and money to carry on his work. Suppose we emphasize the prayer to God, that he would smite this rock of our selfishness, and cause the stream of benevolence to flow into that channel which will fertilize this garden of the Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Henderson, Ch'n.

A resolution was offered as an amendment to the above report and was adopted.

Resolved, 1. That we will try to raise for the coming year, the three hundred dollars asked of us by the State Mission Board.

2. That a committee be appointed to apportion out this amount to our churches, and that they be requested to try to raise the amounts

3. That our Executive Committee be instructed to name to the State Mission Board the most important places in the bounds of this Association where mission work is needed

A collection was taken specially for foreign missions, amounting to $17.50.

After discussion by several brethren the above reports were adopted.

REPORT ON INDIGENT AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

We, your Committee on Indigent Ministers, ask leave to report the following:

That we have in our midst our well beloved brother, L B. Harbin, who has worn himself out in the service of the North River Association; and we, your committee, feel that it is the duty of this Association to provide ample means for his support. We recommend that the fund sent for Associational purposes be applied to his relief; and also, that we take a collection immediately after the reading of this report, for his benefit; and that we try in some way to provide a fund for his relief, between associations, and have it controlled in a way that he can have access to it at any time when he needs it. Respectfully submitted,

WM. PATTON, Ch'n.

At the reading of the above report a collection was taken for Bro. L. B. Harbin amounting to $19.15.

A resolution was offered as an amendment to the above report:

Resolved, That the Treasurer of this Association pay to Bro. L. B. Harbin all of the minute and associational fund left in his hands after paying for having the minutes printed and after deducting $15.00 for his services.

S. LACY.

The above report, with amendment, was adopted.

A committee was appointed to apportion the amount each church is requested to pay for missions during this year, consisting of the following brethren: W. B. Appling, J. F. McDuff, J. L. Gilder, W. P. Smith and L. B. Harbin.

On motion, a committee of one delegate from each church was appointed to raise means for the support of L. B. Harbin.

Clerk to select James Rutledge, J. R. Sartain, J. L. Leonard, Jas. Patton, J. W. Rogers, J. F. McDuff, J. I. McCollum, J. L. Gilder, H. G. Amerson, W. A. Hegler, T. C. Omery, Jno. H. Pool, Wm. Randolph, D. H. Clifton, J. P. Mooney, A. A. Sides, W. P. Smith, Joseph Nations, J. M. Thacker, J. B. Randolph, W. S. Chappell, B. F. Freeman, W. P. Earnest, W. C. C. Brown, James Wilcutt and N. Highsaw.

On motion, adjourned to meet to-night at 7 o'clock.

NIGHT SESSION.

At 7 o'clock P. M. the Association met pursuant to adjournment, and, after singing and prayer, was called to order.

Called for the following reports:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received from Finance Committee	$105 50	
from collection on Sunday	17 95	$123 45

CREDITS.

Paid to L. B. Harbin	$ 22 65	
W. B. Crumpton, Cor. Sec'y State Mission Board	11 85	
H. A. Tupper, Cor. Sec'y Foreign Mission Board	19 80	
I. T. Tichenor, Cor. Sec'y Home Mission Board	3 25	
for printing Minutes	22 00	
Clerk's fee	15 00	
postage	90	
to J. W. Rogers	12 00	$107 45
Balance on hand		$ 16 00

Respectfully submitted, J. S. WATTS, Treas.

The Moderator appointed J. S. Watts Treasurer.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your Committee on Nominations, beg leave to report as follows:

To preach the introductory sermon at our next Association, W. P. Smith; J. I. McCollum, alternate. To preach Sunday at 11 o'clock, Rev. J. W. Rogers; John E. Barnard, alternate.

The following named brethren were nominated to go to the Baptist State Convention: J W. Rogers, Jno H. Pool, J. F. McDuff, R H Smith, J. L Gilder, J. E. Barnard, T. P. Lamkin, H. G Amerson and R. A. Baker. Also nominated T. P. Lamkin to go to the Southern Baptist Convention; W. B. Appling, alternate.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. KILLINGSWORTH, Ch'n.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to submit the following report:

Received for Home Missions	$ 9 95
Foreign Missions	11 25
State Missions	11 35
Indigent Ministers	33⅓
Bible and Colportage Work	66⅔
Minutes	33 90
Associational purposes	22 45
Total	$89 90

Respectfully submitted,

Z J. AMERSON, Ch'n.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your Executive Committee respectfully report:

Balance on hand from last Association, $1.85.

Your committee further reports that, for want of means, it has not employed a missionary or missionaries to preach in the destitute parts of our Association.

Your committee met and earnestly discussed and considered the question as to whether we should employ some one or more of our ministers to preach in said parts, and decided that such steps would be unauthorized, improper and unwise, unless the committee had the funds at its command to redeem its promise or promises.

Very respectfully submitted,

W. B. APPLING, Ch'n.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

Your Committee on Documents respectfully report that they have examined the documents on file, and find nothing in them that demands the consideration of this Association.

W. B. APPLING, Ch'n.

The following committees were then appointed for the ensuing year:

Executive Committee—J. F. Appling, G. D. O'Rear, J. B. Hughs, David Files, J. P. Mooney.

On Sunday Schools—Jno. H. Pool, J. W. Wallis, W. G. Davis.

On State Missions—C. M. D. Wilson, H. G. Amerson, W. B. Earnest.

On Home Missions—J. F. McDuff, Wm. Randolph, N. H. Harbin.

On Foreign Missions—Z. J. Amerson, W. T. Rutledge, Wm. Patton.

On Education—W. B. Appling, J. L. Gilder, C. R McCord.

On Temperance—S. Lacy, W. P. Smith, J. R. Sartain.

On Vocal Music—W. J. Killingsworth, H. G. Amerson, B. F. Thomas.

On Indigent Ministers—D. H. Clifton, L. P. Kiker, W. H. McLane.

On motion, a standing committee was appointed on Religious Literature, to-wit: Jno. H. Pool, J. F. Appling, Wm. Randolph.

REPORT ON VOCAL MUSIC.

We, your Committee on Vocal Music, beg leave to submit the following: We learn that vocal music is advancing in our bounds. Yet we regret to learn that in some localities in our bounds this art is at a low ebb.

H. G. Amerson, Ch'n.

Called for corresponding letters to sister associations. These not being ready, the Corresponding Secretary was authorized to prepare and furnish them to the corresponding messengers.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON APPORTIONMENT.

The following amounts are suggested to the churches for the coming year for missionary purposes. We request the pastors and churches to try to raise these amounts. It will be more easily raised by the use of the missionary envelopes which are furnished free on application to W. B. Crumpton, Marion, Ala.:

Pleasant Grove, W. C.	$ 20 00	Providence	$ 15 00
Pleasant Field	5 00	Pleasant Grove, F. C.	7 00
Mt. Zion	8 00	Bethabara	10 00
Bethlehem	12 00	Bethel	5 00
Oregonia	7 00	New River	7 00
Macedonia	10 00	Mt. Joy	10 00
Lebanon	8 00	New Hope	8 00
Union	5 00	Day's Gap	10 00
Jasper	50 00	Samaria	20 00
New Prospect	10 00	Liberty Grove	7 00
Hepsibah	5 00	Friendship	5 00
Mt. Carmel	5 00	Pleasant Springs	7 00
Union Grove No. 1	5 00	Salem	5 00
Zion	10 00	Bethany	7 00
Mt Olive	5 00	Union Grove No. 2	5 00
Berry Station	7 00		
Total amount			$300 00

W. B. Appling, Ch'n.

The following resolutions were read and adopted:

Resolved, That this Association heartily commend the Alabama Baptist to the favorable consideration of our members and urge them to subscribe for it; also Our Home Field, published by the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., price, 25 cents; The Foreign Mission Journal, Richmond, Va., price, 35 cents; also the Baptist Book and Bible Depository at Marion, Ala., W. B. Crumpton, Secretary.

Jno. H. Pool.

Resolved, That we tender our sincere thanks to the Jasper church and surrounding community for the hospitable way in which they have entertained us during this session of the North River Association.

C. O. Pittman.

On motion, the minutes were read, the roll called, and absentees marked.

After prayer and extending the parting hand, the Association adjourned to meet with Day's Gap church on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, A. D. 1890.

J. W. ROGERS, Moderator.

J. S. Watts, Clerk.

Jasper, Ala., Sept. 23, 1889.

Received of J. S. Watts, Clerk of the North River Baptist Association, the sum of Twenty-five ($25) dollars for printing 1,000 copies of Minutes of the fifty-fifth session of said Association. Baptist Printing Co.,

Per C. W. Hare.

CONSTITUTION.

We, the Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ, are desirous of a reciproca union; we, therefore, propose to maintain the Order and Rules of the Asso ciation, according to the following plan:

We believe that the Churches of Christ are mutually independent of each other, and that the congregational form of Church government shoul l be inviolably preserved; yet being convinced of the utility of friendly intercourse and pious ,counc ls on the principles of reciprocal advantage and Christian love, we hold it to be the duty of the churches to pay respect on these principles to the advice of the Association.

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our Union, who, on producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats; the letters so produced shall express the condition of their churches respectively, viz: The number in fellowship, the number received by baptism, by restoration, dismissed, excommunicated, and died, since the last Association, which letters shall be read and the delegates' names enrolled.

2. The members thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of North River Baptist Association.

3. We declare ourselves a missionary body on the Bible plan. The Association may appoint an Executive Committee, whose duty it shall be to employ a missionary, or missionaries, to travel and preach the gospel to the destitute in her bounds, and to enlarge the field of labor, if necessary; and furthermore, it shall be the duty of said committee to appoint a treasurer to take charge of all the money paid over by the several churches for the support of the mission, also said treasurer shall make a correct report at each and every annual session of this body, of all money received, expenditures, and the surplus on hand, if any, which report shall be affixed to the Minutes of the Association.

4. The Association thus formed, shall choose, by ballot, a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

5. This body shall have no coercive power to lord it over God's heritage, or to infringe on any of the internal privileges or rights of the churches in our Union; but shall only be considered an advisory council in all matters respecting their internal concerns.

6. To give the churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty, and if the Union should be broken between any of the churches, to inquire into the cause of the breach, and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be repaired, to withdraw from any church or churches which they may look upon to be unsound in principle, or immoral in practice, until the same be reclaimed.

7. To take up no case of any church in our Union without the consent of a majority of the churches.

8. Newly constituted or dismissed churches may be received into our Union by their representatives, as before stated, and the Moderator shall signify the same by giving the right hand of fellowship.

9. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by such rules as she may adopt. She may adjourn from day to day until she shall have finished all the business that may be brought before her.

10. Every church numbering fifty members, or less, shall be entitled to three lay members as delegates; and for every twenty-five members over fifty, one lay member as delegate, and elect any ordained minister, in addition thereto, that she may hold in her membership, if she choose.

11. To have the Minutes of the Association read and altered, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises, and have them printed, if she think proper.

12. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members.

13. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

14. To amend the plan or form of government at any time when a majority of the Union shall deem it necessary.

DECLARATION OF FAITH.

1. On the Scriptures.—We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

2. Of the True God.—That there is one true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, the maker and supreme ruler of Heaven and Earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinction of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious office in the great work of redemption.

3. Of the Fall of Man.—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but by choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness, required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and their own sinful passions, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defence or excuse.

4 Of the Way of Salvation.—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by his death, being arisen from the dead he is enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in this wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and all sufficient Saviour.

5 Of Justification.—That the great Gospel Blessing, which Christ of his fulness bestows on such as believe in him, is justification; that justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness, that it is not bestowed in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through its own redemption and righteousness, that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

6. Of the Freeness of Salvation.—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ; which refusal will submit him to an aggravated condemnation.

7. Of Grace and Regeneration.—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated and born again; that the regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind and is affected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel, and that its proper evidence is our voluntary obedience found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.

8. Of God's Purpose of Grace.—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the moral agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable, that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy, that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree: that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe in the Gospel; it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

6. Of the Perseverance of Saints.—That such only are real believers

as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare, and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

10. Harmony of the Law and Gospel.—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government, that it is holy, just and good; and the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the Holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of His visible church.

11. Of a Gospel Church.—That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinance of Christ; governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

12. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.—That Christia baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit; to show forth in solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Savior; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation, and the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

13. Of the Christian Sabbath.—That the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor and recreation by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for the rest which remaineth for the people of God.

14. Of Civil Government.—That civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of conscience and the prince of the kings of the earth.

15. Of the Righteous and Wicked.—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such as only through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in his esteem, while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men in and after death.

16. Of the World to Come.—That the end of this world is approaching, and that at the last day Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a separation will then take place, that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in Heaven or Hell, on principles of righteousness.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2nd. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator.

3d. No member shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the question, or use words of personal reflection.

4th. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except withdrawn by him who made it.

5th. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided or withdrawn before another is offered.

6th. When any question is taken up by the Association, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall take the question by yeas and nays, or otherwise; and the decision thus made shall be announced by the Moderator immediately.

7th. No person shall depart from the service of the Association without leave of the Moderator.

8th. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave obtained.

9th. The appellation of brother shall be used in our addresses one to another.

10th. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege as any other member, provided he appoints some other member to his seat while speaking or otherwise, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

11th. Any member violating the above rules may be reproved as the Association may think proper, only on the day the offense shall have occurred.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF NORTH RIVER ASSOCIATION, 1889.

	CHURCHES.	PASTORS AND P. O.	CLERKS AND POST-OFFICES.	Received by Baptism.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismiss'd by Letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.	Sunday Meeting.	Pastor's Salary.	Minute Fund.	ssociational Fund.	sions.	us.	us.	s.	igs.	isters	tage.
First District.	Zion	H. A. King, Gin Hill	R. N. Waldrop	1	...	...	...	2	...	65	1	.....	1								
	Pleasant Grove (W.)	J. R. Sartain, Day's Gap	D. P. Kilgore, Day's Gap	31	13	...	...	...	...	190	12	.....	3								
	Providence	J. R. Sartain, Day's Gap.	W. M. Watts, Day's Gap	35	12	2	1	...	1	109	12	.....									
	Pleasant Field	L. B. Harbin, Hewitt	B. F. Sides, Hewitt	2	2	...	...	...	...	32	12	.....									
	Pleasant Grove F.C.	J. I. McCollum	S. H. Key, Spencer	11	1	...	4	5	...	51	12	..									
	Mt. Zion	W. Patton, Patton Mines.	N. Thacker, Patton Mines.	.....	...	...	...	...	...	36	12										
	Bethabara	J. W. Rogers, Berry Sta.	B. L. Stewart, Berry Sta	1	1	...	3	...	...	25											
	Bethlehem	J. W. Rogers, Berry Sta.	F. B. Appling	4	6	1	5	1	1	67											
	Bethel	A. Kilgore, Patton Mines	M. A. Turner, Day's Gap	15	2	....	1	1	1	3											
	Oregonia	Not represented																			
	New River	J. I. McCollum, Dublin	J. D. Sherer, Dublin	10	1	2	1	..	..												
	Macedonia	J. L. Gilder, Eldridge	L. W. Cheatham, Eldridge	....	..	..	4	..													
	Mt. Joy	W. Patton, Patton Mines.	H. G. Amerson, Toledo	3	3	..	6	..													
	Lebanon	W. Patton, Patton Mines.	W. N. Aldrige, Corona	....	4	..	3														
	New Hope	A. Kilgore, Patton Mines	A. B. Clements	7	..	..	.														
	Union	J. W. McGaha	T. C. Omery, Texas	....	3	..															
	Day's Gap	John H. Pool, Day's Gap.	James H. Pool, Day's Gap.	....	2																
	Union Grove No. 1.	W. Patton, Patton Mines.	J. W. Wallis	.....																	
	Berry Station	J. W. Rogers, Berry Sta.	B. F. Freeman, Berry Sta	.....																	
Second District.	Jasper	S. Henderson	E. H Foster, Jasper	.....																	
	Samaria	C. C. Collins.	J. W. Gamer, Jasper																		
	New Prospect	S. A. Smith, Jasper	W. H. Snoddy, Jasper																		
	Liberty Grove	R. M. Adkins	John Kenton, Luckey																		
	Hepsibah	W. P. Smith, Luckey	J. H. Smith, South Lo																		
	Friendship	Not represented.																			
	Pleasant Springs	Not represented.																			
	Union Grove No 2.	H. A. Key, Gin Hill	J. G. Hyche, Cordo																		
	Salem	J. R. Sartain, Day's Gap.	H. C. Crump, Da																		
	Bethany	Not represented.																			
	Mt. Olive	Not represented.																			
	Mt. Carmel	L. Williams	J. T. Mor																		
	Totals																				

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